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CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIK
MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
P R A G U E

C E R T I F I C A T E.

The Ministry of Interior hereby certifies that the annexed paper is a State document within the meaning of Art.21, Charter of the International Military Tribunal annexed to the Agreement signed on the 8th August 1945, by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Government of the United States of America, the Provisional Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics for the Prosecution and Punishment of the Major War Criminals of the European Axis.

Prague, this 13.th day of July, 1946.

MINISTERSTVO VNITRA

Minister:
V. Nosek

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H4093 - 0003

Report of the Czechoslovak Ministry of Interior about the crimes committed by the members of the Allgemeine SS and the Waffen SS.

The organisation SS.

The SS formations were formed at the very beginning of the National Socialist Party. After the Munich putsch they were dissolved together with the Party. When in the year 1925 the Party was reconstituted the organisation SA was still forbidden and therefore its functions - the protection of Party meetings - were taken over by the SS. In the year 1926 when the SA formations were again permitted the organisation SS lost some of its importance.

In the year 1926 on the occasion of the 2-nd congress of the NSDAP at Weimar Hitler handed over to the organisation SS the so called Blutfahne, that means the flag of the Munich-Putsch. In the year 1929 he appointed Heinrich Himmler as Reichsführer of the SS and ordered him to build up the SS as an absolutely reliable and first-class formation of the Party.

Himmler made a strict choice from the applicants as to their corporal and racial fitness as well as to their reliability and devotion. He took special care that the marriages concluded by the members of the SS should be suitable from the racial point view. By a special order of December 31-st he ordered that the members of the SS could marry only by special permit in accordance with the racial point of view.

According to the § 2 of the German order of March 29-th 1935 which was to carry out the law guarantying the unity of the Party and the State the organisation SS was a formation of the Nazi-Party, that means it was directly a part of the Party without being an independent juridical person or having the right to possess property od its own. According to the organisation

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statute of the NSDAP the original and the noblest task of the organisation SS consisted in the protection of the Führer. After the taking over of power A.Hitler entrusted the organisation SS with the protection of the Reich inside the country.

The Reichsführer SS became the chief of the German police. He formed SS groups housed in special barracks,the s.c.Verfügungstruppen,later the Waffen SS; in this way there were formed first the standard "Adolf Hitler" and later the standard "Deutschland" and "Germania" and after the occupation of Austria the standard "Der Führer."Besides the general SS troops there were formed the SS disposal troops SS standards of the Totenkaedel /death heads/,further the security service and troops for racial and colonisation questions.

All these individual troops had their own offices,that is the SS Supreme Office, the SS Security Office and the Supreme Office for racial and colonisation questions.

The normal advancement of an SS-man was as follows: Having been recognized suitable for the service the member of the Hitler-Youth became at the age of 18 a candidate for the SS /SS-Bewerber/. At the meeting of the Party which took place the same year he became "waiter" /Anwärter/, a document was handed over to him and he was admitted into the service of the SS, after a short time during which he had to prove his aptitude, he took the oath to the Führer on November 9th /the anniversary of the Munich-Putsch/. In the first year of his service he had to acquire the badge of armed sports, the Reich bronze sport badge. At the age of 19 he entered the Reichsarbeitsdienst /the Reich Labour Service/ and then the military service.After two years of service he returned home,unless he stayed in as an Officer's candidate. He got thorough instruction in the Nazi point of view and on the next 9th November he became an SS-man. At the same time he was allowed to carry, a dagger, he had also to promise that he himself as well as all the members of his family would keep for ever the fundamental laws of the SS. He served as SS-man until his 35th year of age, then he was transferred to the reserve and having reached the age of 45 to the Stammableitung basic formation of the SS.

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The service in the SS disposal troops /Verfügungstruppen / lasted 4 years and was equal to Military service. Having served in the SS dispotal troops /Verfügungstruppen/ the SS-man returned to the general SS-troops.

The formations of the "Death heads" /Totenschaedel/ formed a part of the SS in special barracks and they were destined to guard the concentration camps. The service there was to last 12 years.

The chief task of the SS-security service consisted in the constant observation of known and secret enemies of the Nazi regime and its original party-function was extended until it became the organ of the State security operating closely with the Gestapo.

According to the statutes of the NSDAP every SS-man has to be conscious of the importance of the Nazi-movement. He has to be instructed ideologically as well as corporally in order to be able to fight a battle for the Nazi-world point of view as an individual or as a fighter within the formations. An unconditional obedience is required.Everything is based upon the conviction that the Nazi-world outlook would dominate. He who shares this conviction and stands for it with passion would voluntarity submit to the obligatory obedience.

Therefore every SS-man is prepared to carry out without hesitation every order issued by the Führer or by any superior even if this required of him greatest Sacrifice.
According to the SS-Leitheft, a special organ of the SS /February 2-nd 1943/, the organisation SS, owing allegiance to the Führer, declares consciously and uncompromisingly to be the knight-order of the Nazi world outlook. From this it follows:
1/ We are ready to deduce also spiritually all the consequences of our world outlook to justily it philosophically and seientifically. Therefore it is the task of the SS to become the centre of the spiritual selection of the nation.
2/ We are also ready to live for this world outlook. Our world outlook is a moral obligation to us. We know that the nation

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will not be convinced about the righteousness of this conviction by words, but by deeds. Our life can have a sense only if we devote it unreservedly to the furthering of the cause of the Führer, the nation and our children.

This idea that the SS is a Special Order is constantly implanted in the members. The SS shall be the Order of the Nazi-world outlook the mundame order in the higher sense of the word. The SS is a military warlike collective. We read in the Leitheft that everywhere there were on the German soil collectives of this kind, they had always a military warlike character: the Vikings, the Order of the German-Knights and the Prussian Officer corps which was a collective of a common outlook, belong to the predecessors of the Order idea of the SS. The whole of the nation has to be welded into a strictly disciplined Order-like community which carries out consciusly what is only latent in thousands of other people, which knows the internal connection between soldiery and world outlook and possesses enough courage and resoluteness to use means hitherto untried by anybody if they are considered necessary for the life of the whole nation and if an action has to be started or an example provided.

Briefly: The SS Wasn't any innocent association, it was an organisation of well instructed people who knew what were their tasks, This is true not only of the leaders but of every ordinary SS-man. Each of them was imbued with of the racial mysticism and the Nazi world outlook i.e. with German pride, snobbery and the conviction that the Germans were superior to any nation of the world. From their ranks were chosen the leaders for different tasks and in this sense it was indeed an Order which brought up the class of leaders.

Crimes committed by the members of the Allgemeine SS and the Waffen SS.

The crimmes committed by the members of the SS-troops against the Czechoslovak and foreign citizens on the territory of the

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Czechoslovak Republic can be divided into the following categories:

1./ Actions against the Prague students in 1939
2./ Reprisal measures against civilians suspected of contact with the partisans.
3./ Crimes committed in concentration camps and during the transports of the prisoners /the s.c. death marches/.
4./ Crimes committed in the SS training centre in Benešov.
5./ Crimes committed during the Prague revolution in May 1945

Ad 1./

The SS-units were employed together with the German army and police in the action against the Prague students on November 17th 1939 during which the s.c. Hlávka college was occupied by the SS-units. The direct eye-witnesses give the following account of the action:
"About 4 o´clock in the morning there were heard the first sounds of broken doors in the Hlávka-college. Immediately afterwards a drunken pack of SS-men broke into the corridors, smashing with their guns the doors of the rooms and driving with leather whips the students to the staircase. Many of the students were only in their night gowns, others had only their slippers on and the rest were barefoot. The face of many of them was covered with blood. The house was shaken by a tremendous roar and stamping of shod shoes, the cracking of broken doors and glass. In every room there remained an SS-man with a gun. Their commanders ran with whips from one room to another they beat everybody they met, they put pistols on the breast of the victims raging and rioting. In front of the college there were some buses. He who happened to reach quickly a seat, was saved from many blows which the pack of SS-men were regardlessly distributing."
During this action the greater part of the college equipment was destroyed, valuable objects as watches, fountain-pens and money were stolen and carried away. In some rooms the beds, walls and floor were spilt with blood. The broken windows and the fallen plaster were the best proof of the way the students

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were treated.

Ad 2./

In the village of Hoštálkové, district Vsetín, there was stationed from December 1944 to May 3rd 1945 a small SS-unit which undertook penal actions against the civilian inhabitants who were suspected of being in touch with the partisans. On December 12th 1944 the members of this unit arrested Mrs Staňková together with her son and daughter because they were suspected of hiding the partisans. At the same time the SS-men set the house on fire.

On January 28th 1945 the commander of the unit proclaimed a state of emergency and the SS-men opened fire at the inhabitants. Even children who were skying were threatened by the shots. One person was seriously wounded.

In February 1945 Mr and Mrs Češek and Mr J.Rataj were arrested because they were suspected of maintaining contact with the partisans. Their house was burned down by the SS-men.

The arrested persons were tortured by the SS and after their departure from the place of their station a buried man was found whose body showed several wounds caused by shots and stabbing, fractures and traces of burning. According to the medical diagnosis the unknown man was buried while still alive /which was proved by the red liguid blood in the clay all around the nose./

On April 19th 1945 a group of the Gestapo and the SS of Zlín were searching for partisans in the area of the clearings Ryliska and Ploštiny district Zlín. The search proved to be negative. The enraged Gestapo-and SS-men ordered the questioned persons to go into the houses which in the mean time have been plundered and then put on fire. If somebody did not want to obey the order he was thrown into the burning building or under the threats of shots was forced to obey. In the ruins of the houses 23 burnt corpses were found, 4 persons were shot during this bestial action.

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On May 5th 1945 after having plundered the village of Javoříško, in the district of Litovel, the SS burnt it down. During this execution the SS troops shot in the nape or killed in the burning houses all the male inhabitants of the village from the age of 15 - 70 years. Women with children after having been illtreated were driven away.
The execution, at which 38 men lost their lives took place because the inhabitants of the village were suspected of hiding partisans.

Ad 3./

The crimes committed by the members of the SS in concentration camps are known well enough and therefore it is not necessary to mention them in details. As far as the identity of the individual SS-men could be stated, the concerned evidence was handed over to the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London and the perpetrators were put on the list of war criminals. It is to be mentioned that the prevailing part of the persons sofar put on the Czechoslovak war criminal list are members of the SS.
The same cruelties as those in the concentration camps were committed by the members of the SS groups during the transports of prisoners. During the marches the prisoners were beaten and tortured, they died of hunger, cold and exhaustion and were shot or beaten to death by the SS-men as soon they could not march any more.
Towards the end of January 1945 there passed through the village of Hněvošice, district Opava, a transport of political prisoners at the number of about 10.000 persons, accompanied by the Waffen SS. The prisoners were falling of hunger and exhaustion and they were shot in the nape by the SS-men. In the village of Hněvočice there were murdered in this way 18 and in the village of Služovice 5 persons.
On February 18th 1945 there arrived to the village of Chroustnikovo Hradiště a transport of some thousands of political prisoners accompanied by SS-men. The prisoners were so hungry and exhaus-

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ted that 10 of them died in the local brewery, where they had so little space that they had to sleep standing.

Another 90 men who could not continue their way were shot down or beaten to death by clubs during the next course of the march.
On April 4th 1945 there arrived to the village of Litrbach a transport of 150 - 200 women accompanied by SS-men. The women had to spend the nigt in the open air although the commander of the transport was offered an ampty school building. The commander of the transport handed over to the German mayor 12 corpses of young women to be buried. At the exhumation which took place on April 8th 1946 there was discovered on the skull of a woman a 9.5 cm long wound,caused by a blunt object. In the neighbourhood of Sangerberg there was found another dead woman belonging to the same transport who according to the medical diagnosis,was killed by a blunt object and the blow was so violent that she lost her teeth.
On April 22nd the same transport arrived to Rejštejn.About 20 persons spent the night in a barn,where they had to remain until the next day afternoon without any protection against the bad weather and the bitter cold. 11 women died and they were buried at the local carrion place.
During the next march 12 women died who were buried at Hartmanice and another 5 whose corpses were found in the wood through which the transport had passed.
On April 12th 1945 a transport consisting of about 5.000 prisoners guarded by SS-men passed through the village of Písařové Vestce. During the march the prisoners were beaten and two days later one of the accompanying SS-men, the Untersturmführer Hauer returned to Písařové Vestce and brought with him on a lorry 20 prisoners. These had to dig graves for 45 shot prisoners who were in the meantime brought from Schoenwald.
In the time from 15th-24th April there passed through the railway-station of Hohosudová several transports carrying prisoners from the concentration camps in Germany. One of the goods-trains in which there were about 5.500 prisoners,stayed at the station several days. The prisoners who were allowed to go out to the nearby meadow ate gluttonously grass,willow-leaves and the bark. Those who went a little distance from where the bulk of

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the prisoners were, were mercilessly shot down or beaten to death by the SS-guards. Altogether 312 persons were beaten to death, shot or died and their bodies were buried in a coal-pit.

Ad 4./

On June 1 st 1942 the German authorities ordered the expropriation of the property and the evacuation of the inhabitants from the village of Hradištko with the villages Hradištko, Brunšov and Pikovice in the s.c. zone I.A. of the SS-military exercise-ground with Headquarters at Benešov. According to the notice the above named villages had to be evacuated by September 15th 1942 and in the area an SS pioneer-school had to be placed. In the notice it was pointed out that the inhabitants had to evacuate their property.

The local commander of the SS-pioneer-school at Hradištko which moved in immediately, decided however in contradiction to the formal wording of the notice that the evacuation had to take place within less than a fortnight and in some even within 2 hours. Further the local commander ordered that the property could be taken away only when the owners produced a permit issued by the commander of the SS-pioneer-school. In this way they forced the bulk of the inhabitants to leave behind an important part of their property without having been given any receipts of the property left behind. The amount which was paid by the SS commander at Benešov for the ceded property represents only a small part of the real value.

Immediately after the occupation by the SS-formations there was erected at Hradištko a so called "Arbeiterziehungslager" Labour education centre-which was later changed into a concentration camp where many Serbs, Russians, Frenchmen, Dutchmen and citizens of other nations were kept. The conditions there were horrible. The climax was reached a few weeks before the end of the war, when large scale murdering of prisoners took place.

Ad 5./

In the days following May 5th 1945 the members of the SS-troops in Prague committed incredible cruelties against the civilian inhabitants. The SS-men drove them from their flats and shelters into streets and forced them under threat by automatic weapons

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to protect the German guards with their bodies. In the streets there lay many killed Czechs. The wounded could not be taken into care although they criedfor helf. He who dared to extinguish the fires was shot down by the SS-men. The inhabitants forming with their bodies the protecting walls were led from one place to another and beaten with guns,clubs and everything that was on hand. The SS-men knocked at the doors and when somebody came to open he was shot on the spot. They drove the inhabitants away to the shelters into which afterward they threw handgrenades and killed the wounded. Eye-witnesses described the event in the house No 264 at Horní Krč,where the SS-men penetrated into the cellar and shouted in the German language: "Everything out!" 22 persons left the cellar and in the small garden belonging to the house 16 were shot down /6 children, the youngest was 3 years old, 5 women and 5 men./ 3 persons were seriously wounded.

They also employed dum-dum loads. The 10 years old Milan Procházka who was only lightly wounded,kneeled down and asked the SS-men not to kill him.Nevertheless they killed him with their gauntlets.

Apart from the abovenamed cases the SS-men herded into communal houses about 6.000 persons of whom they chose men as hostages and protectors during the fighting, While retreating the SS-men drove 300 men with held up arms in front of their tanks and infantary as far as the town Zbraslav /over 16 miles from Prague/.

In the Jelení Příkop in Prague IV. captured Czech civilians were tortured and then murdered in a bestial way. The found corpses bore traces of shot-wounds in the nape, their abdomens carved open,deformed mouths,pierced eyes,wounds on the neck and in the back. The victims were brought from the s.c.Kadetka occupied by the SS-men.

The members of the SS who were statiouned in Prague I. near the Faculty of Law made under the support of tanks an assault on Pařížská třída /Paris Boulevard/,drove the inhabitants out of the shelters and kept them during the fighting in the street.

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Here, too, they illtreated and murdered a greater number of persons. The corpses have traces of violence, cut ears and noses as well as blue taints caused probably by gauntlets.
The SS-men raged also in other parts of Prague. After the occupation of the Masaryk railway station all the civilians had to leave the shelters. These SS separated the men from the women, ordered then to line up and mowed down some of them on the spot in the presence of the women. Of the remaining the SS-men chose their victims at random, ordering them to run across the street and shooting 29 of them from a distance of 20 steps. Another 24 were executed in the same way in the railway station hall. Among the executed there were besides the railway employees also a considerable number of students, who on May 5-th waited there for their train. From Libeň to Karlín a tank division of SS drove in front of itself about 300 Czech civilians and forced them to remove the barricades in Karlín. Also here the SS-men penetrated into the shelters of the neighbouring houses, drove the unarmed civilians into the streets, where they shot them. Many men and women were shot in their flats, in the houses and in front of the houses, mostly by a shot from behind. Several dozens of people were driven to the Trojský bridge to remove the barricades in the middle of this bridge. Nearly all of them were killed on the bridge by the SS-men.
But also outside Prague many bestial murders and other crimes were committed by the members of the SS-troops during the May Revolution. On May 6th 1945, in the village of Křížov, district Příbram, a certain number of inhabitants were arrested by the SS-men and driven in front of the tanks. On the same day SS-men executed at Milín 5 persons. In the village of Živokošť the members of the Waffen-SS executed 7 Czech patriots from the village of Záborná Lhota. Before the execution these men were bestially illtreated. Not far from this place on the other bank of the river the SS-men tortured and massacred many other Czechs. At Sedlec, district Sedlčany, the SS-troops executed 11 men after having shot in the neighbourhood many innocent people. They also burned down the school and plundered severan houses.

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At Třešť in Moravia the members of the SS-troops together with local Germans murdered 34 Czechs in the prison-court-yard and in the streets they shot 10 other persons.

Prague, July 9th 1945.

Sgt Pavorny.

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